Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 081145Z MAR 76 FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6224 INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI AMCONSUL CALCUTTA AMCONSUL MADRAS

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EO 11652: NA TAGS: ENRG IN

SUBJECT: POWER SUPPLY IN MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT

REF: BOMBAY 533, BOMBAY 493, AND STATE 45667

1. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY BY SEVERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT NEWSPAPER STORIES INDICATING A THREE-DAY ELECTRICITY HOLIDAY MAR 14-16 ARE CORRECT, WE AS YET HAVE NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION. MAHARASHTRA'S MAJOR HYDRO INSTALLATION, THE KOYNA DAM, WHICH PRESENTLY HAS AN INSTALLED CAPACITY OF ABOUT 500MW MUST BE CLOSED FOR A FEW DAYS TO ADD EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY RAISE ITS CAPACITY BY 80MW.

2. AN OFFICIAL OF THE MAHARASHTRA ELECTRICITY BOARD INFORMALLY CONFIRMED THE ECONOMIC TIMES STORY OF MAR 6 WHICH ESTIMATED THAT MAHARASHTRA'S CURRENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY IS ABOUT 20 PER CENT BELOW REQUIREMENTS. THE ECONOMIC TIMES SAYS INSTALLED CAPACITY IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT 400MW SHORT OF CURRENT NEED. TO CLOSE THIS GAP RESTRICTIONS

ON POWER USE WERE INITIALLY INTRODUCED DURING THE CURRENT DRY SEASON ON DEC 16, 1975. THEY WERE SOMEWHAT RELAXED ON JAN 24, AND CONTINUE IN FOLLOWING FORM TODAY:

- A) GENERAL INDUSTRIES CAN USE ONLY 60 PC OF BASIC DEMAND
- B) CONTINUOUS PROCESS INDUSTRIES ONLY 70PC
- C) TEXTILE MILLS ONLY 80 PC
- D) NO NEW POWER CONNECTIONS OVER 100KW
- E) SINGLE SHIFT INDUSTRIES MUST END PRODUCTION AT 5:00 PM DAILY
- F) DOUBLE SHIFT INDUSTRIES CANNOT WORK BETWEEN 5:00 PM AND 10:00 PM DAILY
- G) DOMESTIC AIR CONDITIONERS CAN BE USED ONLY BETWEEN $10{:}00~\mathrm{PM}$ AND $6{:}00~\mathrm{AM}$
- H) COMMERCIAL AIRCONDITIONING CAN BE USED ONLY BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 4:00 PM (FOOD PRESERVATION AND DRUG PROCESSING WORK EXEMPTED)
- I) WEEKLY HOLIDAYS ARE STAGGERED
- 3. ON FEB 29, 1976 THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS WERE INTRODUCED INTO GUJARAT REFLECTING A SHORTFALL IN PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF ABOUT 11 PC IN THAT STATE:
- A) INDUSTRIES USING HIGH-TENSION POWER AND CONTINUOUS PROCESS INDUSTRIES MUST CUT BACK 5 PC IN PEAK PERIOD DEMAND
- B) OTHER INDUSTRIES MUST CUT THEIR OFF-TAKE BY 20 PC
- C) ALL INDUSTRIES MUST OBSERVE STAGGERED WEEKLY HOLIDAYS
- D) ALL INDUSTRIES MUST STAGGER SHUTDOWN DURING EVENING HOURS
- E) FARM SECTOR MUST SHED LOAD SIX HOURS EACH DAY

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4. COMMENT: AS IS EVIDENT FROM ABOVE ANY FURTHER REDUCTION RESULTING FROM SLOWDOWN OR SHUTDOWN IN TARAPUR REACTORS WHICH SUPPLY ABOUT 12 PC OF COMBINED GUJARAT AND MAHARASHTRA POWER WOULD AGGRAVATE ALREADY SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF ELECTRIC POWER. COURTNEY

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